

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET BY THE HON. MINISTER
OF COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
THE HON. MINISTER OF HEALTH

Amendment to Article 7 of the World Health Organization
Constitution adopted by the Eighteenth
World Health Assembly, May, 1965

At the Eighteenth World Health Assembly held at Geneva in May, 1965, the following Amendment to Article 7 of the World Health Organization Constitution was adopted:

Article 7 - Delete and replace by

Article 7

- (a) If a Member fails to meet its financial obligations to the Organization or in any other exceptional circumstances, the Health Assembly may, on such conditions as it thinks proper, suspend the voting privileges and services to which a Member is entitled. The Health Assembly shall have the authority to restore such voting privileges and services.
- (b) If a Member ignores the humanitarian principles and the objectives laid down in the Constitution, by deliberately practising a policy of racial discrimination, the Health Assembly may suspend it or exclude it from the World Health Organization. Nevertheless, its rights and privileges, as well as its membership, may be restored by the Health Assembly on the proposal of the Executive Board following a detailed report proving that the State in question has renounced the policy of discrimination which gave rise to its suspension or exclusion.

This Amendment is not in conformity with the principle of universality in the Specialised Agencies of the United Nations and anticipates the decisions of the principal political organs of the United Nations system on political questions of this nature, as it provides for

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- 2 -

suspension or exclusion of a member without making it conditional on prior suspension or expulsion of that member from the United Nations.

Hon. Ministers are, therefore, invited to recommend non-ratification of this Amendment.

CFA 2212/66.

5th February, 1966.